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8 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Clandestine Service Historical Board Meeting, 31 August 1971, 1000 to 1200 hours, Room 2E-49 Hqs.

PRESENT:

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Mr. Hugh P. Cunningham, Chairman
Mr. [REDACTED], Member
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED] ry
25X1A9A Prof. Howard M. Ehrmann, C/CIA/HS, Guest
Dr. [REDACTED] DC/CIA/HS, Guest

1. Mr. Cunningham stated that there were three matters to be taken up during the meeting: (a) a draft security instruction for the CIA historical program which has been submitted by C/CIA/HS to Colonel White for approval, (b) the status and progress of the CS historical program and (c) the nature of the ongoing program.

2. There was discussion as to what point in its preparation a paper should be subjected to the security controls prescribed in the security instruction. It was generally agreed that a paper should be entered on the inventory when an initial draft has been completed and should thenceforth be subject to the same controls as the published paper.

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3. Prof. Ehrmann pointed out that in some instances the components might wish to retain draft copies of histories, in addition to their published copies. This would be permitted under the new instruction, so long as they are registered, controlled and accounted for along with the published copies.

4. Mr. Cunningham expressed concern about wider readership and utilization of published papers and felt that there may have been an over-emphasis on limiting and controlling access. He cited the Director's desire for increased readership of papers describing our more notable programs and accomplishments. In fact the Director specifically authorized the preparation of an article on the heretofore very sensitive [] Program for publication in Studies in Intelligence. Prof. Ehrmann stated that papers should be readily available to persons with legitimate interest in them. He noted that controls are intended to record and not to discourage access. 25X1A2G

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5. Mr. [] questioned the desirability of centralizing records, as reflected in the security instruction. It is contrary to general CS practice. Prof. Ehrmann

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emphasized that centralization occurs only with C/CIA/HS and his Deputy. At subordinate echelons the program is strictly compartmented by directorate. Mr. cited a visceral and instinctive reluctance on the part of some CS case officers to record some of the more sensitive aspects of their operations - even leading in some instances to their avoiding normal channels of communication to report operational developments. The CS Historical Board had sought to create a climate encouraging case officers to prepare candid histories. The attitudes noted above, however, tend to inhibit case officers from providing sensitive information for historical studies, particularly for a program that is centrally managed outside the CS. 25X1A9A

6. Mr. Cunningham also commented on prevalent and sometimes excessive security inhibitions among some elements of the CS. He noted instances of reluctance of some CS officers to reveal details of operations in their lectures to OTR audiences, with the result that their presentations were flat and uninformative. The DDP has given his support to having open and detailed discussions in OTR

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lectures, within the limits of operational security.

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Mr. Cunningham also noted that a full expose of the

☐ "network" and its penetration and control by the

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☐ been presented in OTR not long after the event and had been very useful for training purposes.

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Also, discussion of the ☐ operation was considerably enhanced by a review by ☐ of the DDI of the significance of the information it produced and its effect on national policy.

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7. Mr. Cunningham pointed out that leaks of information could occur either before or after the drafts are subject to control procedures, which might inhibit but would not prevent unauthorized readership. He stated that a centralized record of the readership of CS histories to be maintained by the CIA/HS was not desirable and would not be favored by the CS. Each component in the CS would maintain its own records of readership which would be available should the need to consult them arise. Otherwise, no objections were raised to the draft security instruction.

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8. Mr. ☐ summarized the status of the CS historical program. He pointed out that some components, particularly those with small programs, have completed or will complete the catch-up phase by the end of the year. SB is doing well; NE, however, very little. He estimated

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that about 100 of the papers would not be published by the end of the year. Prof. Ehrmann expressed surprise at this figure, noting that the July estimate was only 60 and that this indicated that the CS program was slowing down rather than speeding up. Mr. [] reported that 25X1A9A total manpower was about the same but that there had been some slippage due to reassignment of writers and previous 25X1A6A overly optimistic estimates of progress. The [] 25X1 Station history, he noted, would apparently not be completed before the end of the year and [] contract 25X1 is not being renewed after November. Mr. Cunningham 25X1A9A requested Mr. [] to prepare a detailed written estimate 25X1 concerning the progress of the catch-up phase.

9. Prof. Ehrmann stated that writers of overall Agency histories would draw on CS histories as sources. This being one of the purposes for the preparation of directorate histories.

10. Concerning plans for the EUR Division program 25X1A9A after 31 December, Mr. [] said that it will probably continue but that the Division Chief wished to keep some options open for the present. Uncertainties still exist concerning manpower, availability of annuitants, the DDP's views, etc. Prof. Ehrmann stressed that the divisions have no choice but to continue the program.

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11. In discussing the "on-going" program, Mr. Cunningham commented on the recent [REDACTED] and the grade de-escalation program. These developments would further reduce the ability of the DDP to assign competent staff employees to the historical program. The staffing problem would have to be handled differently. There should be no part-time writers. A smaller group of full-time writers should be assembled whose competence is known. For the most part they should be annuitants on contract. There should, with a very few exceptions, be no further station histories written. More emphasis should be placed on histories which cut across area and on occasion, directorate lines. Logistics and Communications have written some very detailed and sensitive histories which of necessity incorporate details of CS operations. These histories, however, of necessity reflect primarily the role of the particular component. The NPIC history of the Cuban missile crisis is another example of this. Consideration should be given to designating a senior historian to prepare a history such as the Agency role in the missile crisis. He could have assistants from the various components concerned who would conduct research and write up material from their own directorates.

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12. Mr. Cunningham expressed reservations concerning the usefulness of station histories and felt that they receive too much emphasis in the current program. He cited the view of one prominent station chief that events at his station 20 or so years ago had little relevance to his current problems and operations. Mr. [] expressed the view that the station chief was mistaken in his judgment. Station problems, personalities and programs, even those going back some years, invariably have a bearing on the present and future. He felt that station histories are of value to current division and station management. Reviews of liaison relationships are particularly useful.

13. Mr. Cunningham has had several of his unit chiefs in OTR prepare lists of what they consider to be useful subjects for Agency history. They were turned over to Prof. Ehrmann for review and return.

14. Mr. [] is to formulate recommendations concerning the "on-going" CS historical program - i.e. after 31 December 1971. Included among these recommendations would be what portions of the uncompleted current program should be continued and what new programs should be undertaken, with some indication of precedence and priority.

[]
Executive Secretary
CS Historical Board